

Neurosciences

Adult epilepsy nursing service: patient information leaflet

The aim of this service is to provide information, advice and support for people living within the region who have been diagnosed with epilepsy

Introduction

The adult epilepsy nurses are part of a team of health care professionals based in the Neurosciences Department at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire at Walsgrave, Coventry. In order to provide a high quality service they have undergone specialist training and have extensive knowledge and experience in caring for people with epilepsy.

The Adult Epilepsy Nurses are: **Emma Jackson** and **Paula Taylor**

What age is Adult Epilepsy?

The adult epilepsy services will review people with epilepsy aged 16 years and above.

How to access the service

Newly diagnosed patients

Adult patients who have a definite diagnosis of epilepsy under the care of a neurosciences consultant working within the UHCW catchments area will, if required, be referred directly to the adult epilepsy nurses. On receiving the referral the nurse will send a contact letter inviting the patient to make contact if they would like any information, advice or support. Alternatively your GP or Midwife can initiate a direct referral to the epilepsy nurse but only if you have a definite diagnosis of epilepsy and are under consultant care.



Patient Information

Patients new to the area or new to the service

Patients who have moved into the region or would like to access services at University Hospital in Coventry, should ask their GP to refer them to one of our Consultant Neurologists, Neurosurgeons or Neuro-Rehabilitation Consultants. Once accepted under the neurosciences team, patients can then access the epilepsy nursing service.

Services provided

The epilepsy nurses work Monday to Friday during office hours. If you wish to contact the epilepsy nurse you can leave a message on an answer-phone 24hrs a day. Please remember to leave your name, contact details and a brief message for the nurse. The calls are often responded within 3 days of receipt excluding weekends. The epilepsy nurses are hospital based and are at other times busy with clinical duties.

To contact the Adult Epilepsy Nurses, call 024 7696 5221 (answer phone)

(Please **do not** send text messages to the telephone line as they are not audible)

Nurse support is offered in a number of ways

- Telephone consultations
- Nurse-led clinic consultations that are requested by consultant or GP.
- Home visits (in exceptional circumstances only)

The epilepsy nurses are able to provide advice on many aspects of living with epilepsy including:

- Understanding epilepsy
- Seizure triggers and management of seizures
- First aid for epilepsy
- How to use a seizure diary, including video recording.
- The influences of varying life styles on epilepsy
- Driving laws
- Employment
- Discuss challenges of higher education for a person with epilepsy

Patient Information

- Contraception, pre-conception and pregnancy advice for women with epilepsy
- Dedicated Nurse-led out patients clinics
- Review of epilepsy medications, side effects, management, complex drug changes
- Training and education in the use of community emergency/rescue medications in the event of cluster or prolonged seizures
- Referrals to specialist services as required
- Provide access to a range of information leaflets
- Provide communications links with other healthcare professionals such as GPs, Neurologists, therapists, and voluntary agencies

What services the epilepsy nurses are unable to provide

- **The epilepsy nurses do not provide an emergency service. If your call of an urgent nature then please contact your GP. In the event of an extreme emergency please dial 999.**
- The epilepsy nurses do not alter or book consultant out patient's appointments.
- The epilepsy nurses do not offer advice for persons with epilepsy under the age of 16yrs
- The epilepsy nurses do not accept email enquiries.
- The epilepsy nurses are unable to provide specialist equipment that may be required in the community setting.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 5128 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

Document History

Department:	Neurosciences
Contact:	25221
Updated:	January 2020
Review:	January 2023
Version:	8
Reference:	HIC/LFT/671/08